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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,901	04/23/2007	Darrell H. Reneker	089498.0500.US	7722
36905 7590 02/03/2009 ROETZEL AND ANDRESS 222 SOUTH MAIN STREET AKRON, OH 44308				
EXAMINER COLELLO, ERIN L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3734				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/03/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/597,901

Applicant(s)

RENEKER ET AL.

Examiner

ERIN COLELLO

Art Unit

3734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 16-21 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-21 and 32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 August 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 16 October 2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group 1 and Species 1 in the reply filed on September 18, 2008 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the process is simply the step of making the stent of Group 1 and therefore examination of this application would necessarily involve a search for both and therefore this would not be burdensome. This is not found persuasive because under the unity of invention guidelines a restriction is proper if the special technical element linking the groups together is not novel which is evidenced by patent (5,843,160) to Rhodes, which shows that a stent member with an insoluble fibrous component that is sufficiently loosely wrapped around the stent in order to deform and form a thrombus plug is well known in the art and therefore there is a lack of unity.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 17-21 and 32 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on September 18, 2008.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Figure 1, (20), (10); Figure 2, (10), (30), (31); Figure 3, (40), (41); Figure 4, (10), (50), (51); Figure 5, (10), (60); Figures 6 and 7, (10), (100), (200); Figure 8, (10), (11); Figure 9, (10), (210), (300), (310). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with

37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 3-5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Rhodes (5,843,160)**.

Regarding claim 1, Rhodes discloses a stent comprising: a stent member (Figure 10, (20')); and an insoluble fibrous component, wherein the component is sufficiently loosely wrapped around the stent to allow the component to deform in a manner that forms a reinforcing thrombus plug (Figure 10, (100)); Column 9, Lines 41-48; Column 13, Lines 52-67; Column 14, Lines 1-19).

Regarding claim 3, Rhodes discloses that the insoluble fibrous component comprises polyethylene terephthalate (Figure 10, (100); Column 13, Lines 52-67).

Regarding claim 4, Rhodes discloses that the insoluble fibrous component comprises a thrombogenic material that initiates the formation of a thrombus (Figure 10, (100); Column 9, Lines 41-48; Column 13, Lines 52-67; Column 14, Lines 1-19).

Regarding claim 5, Rhodes discloses that the thrombogenic material at least partially blocks the entrance to a structure selected from the group consisting of an aneurysm in a blood vessel wall (Figure 10, (100); Column 4, lines 5-8; Column 9, Lines 41-48; Column 13, Lines 52-67; Column 14, Lines 1-19)..

Regarding claim 16, Rhodes discloses a method comprising the step of implanting the stent in a living organism (Figure 10, (20')).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Rhodes (5,843,160)**.

Regarding claim 2, Rhodes discloses that the insoluble fibrous component comprises at least one fiber but fails to explicitly disclose that the fiber is a nanofiber.

However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the fiber a nanofiber, since it has been held that, where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device. *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ERIN COLELLO whose telephone number is (571)270-3212. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin T. Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Erin Colello/
Examiner, Art Unit 3734